

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated August 1, 2005, within the three month period for response. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed concurrently herewith, along with authorization to charge Deposit Account 23-3000 in the amount of \$790.00 for the requisite fee. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In addition, claims 1-8, 12-21 and 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,987,621 to Duso et al. (Duso et al.). The Office Action also rejected dependent claims 9-11 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duso et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,964,887 to Conseil (Conseil).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and objections to the extent they may be maintained, as the cited references do not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in any of claims 1-30. Applicants have nonetheless amended claims 1, 15 and 29, and canceled claim 30 in deference to the Examiner.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the consideration extended in the telephonic interview conducted between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on September 21, 2005. In the interview, proposed amendments to the claims were discussed. The proposed amendments were intended to definitively distinguish the claimed adapters from the servers of the cited references. Based upon the proposed amendments, the Examiner indicated that such proposed Amendments would likely overcome the art of record. Accordingly, each independent claim has been amended to recite a shareable spare adaptor consisting essentially of a circuit board configured to function as a network, nonuser interface that removably couples to a computer resource.

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Amendment and Response dated November 1, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of August 1, 2005
IBM Docket ROC920000284US1
WH&E IBM/178
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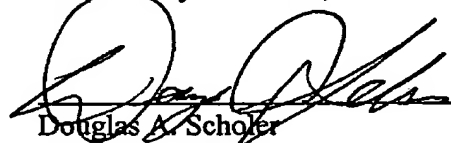
The amended hardware language is inherent to adaptors, which unlike servers, do not include user interfaces. For instance, the servers shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Duso et al. rely on user interfaces 32. Applicants have included the language to clear up any perceived misunderstanding, i.e., not to limit the scope of the claims. The language was particularly added to more clearly distinguish an adapter from a server and/or network of servers. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added by the above amendments, as the amendments are fully supported in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

To further the remaining claims onto issuance, Applicants have also amended claim 29 and canceled claim 30 to resolve any persisting §101 issues.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

11/01/05
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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